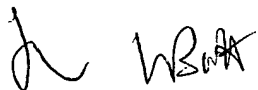


## REMARKS

This application is a U.S. national stage application based on the enclosed international application PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/010486 that was filed September 17, 2004 designating, *inter alia*, the United States. By this preliminary amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-28, without prejudice, and added claims 29-55. As a result, claims 29-55 are pending in this application. No new matter is believed added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



John W. LaBatt, Reg. No. 48,301  
Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC  
75 State Street, 14th Floor  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone  
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile

Dated: March 16, 2006